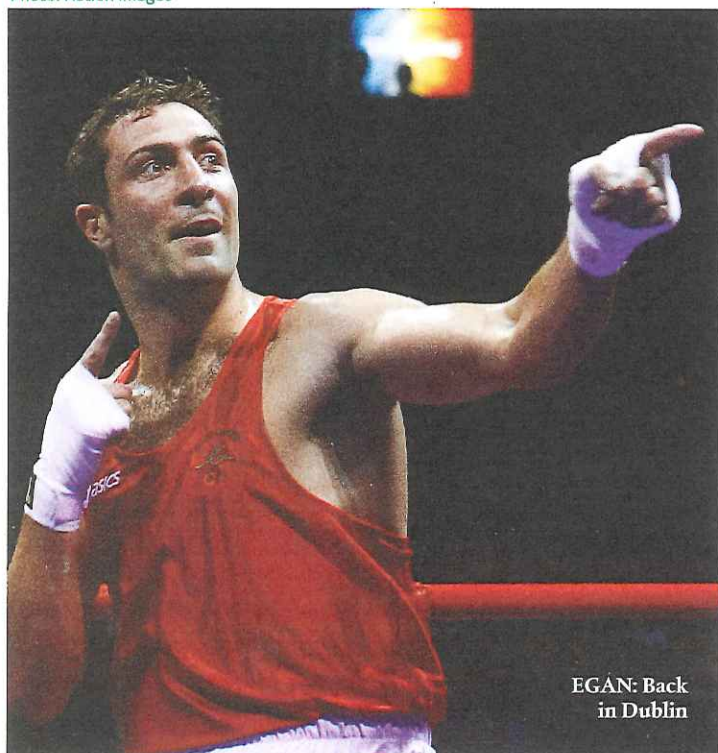


# KENNY SAYS SORRY

Thomas Myler on how Ireland's Olympic silver medal hero Egan came back down to earth

Photo: Action Images



EGAN: Back in Dublin

IRELAND'S Olympic light-heavy silver medallist Kenneth Egan arrived back in Dublin from New York after his sensational no-show for the February 27 international against the USA at the National Stadium.

The nine-times Irish champion also announced he was withdrawing from an arranged return with Xiaoping Zhang, his Chinese conqueror in the Beijing final. This was to be one of the amateur bouts on the world title fight card at Dublin's new O2 arena tomorrow (Saturday March 21), promoted by Brian Peters.

Egan, 26, is on a €5,000 (£4,500) annual grant from the Irish Sports Council in their High Performance Programme. He told waiting reporters he was apologising to his family, his teammates, coaches, officials, promoter Peters and everybody concerned for his disappearance.

"I have found dealing with the success and the new found fame very challenging and I have not handled it appropriately," he said. "I put myself out there in celebrity world and got caught up in it."

Egan, the tall Dubliner with the movie star looks, gained a reputation as a ladies' man in recent months, regularly appearing in newspapers and magazines alongside beautiful ladies including former Miss World, Rosanna Davison.

Gary Keegan, former head of the High Performance Programme and now with the Irish Institute of Sport, which governs all amateur sport in Ireland, said: "There was a huge spotlight on Kenneth and maybe he didn't deal with it as he should have."

"He got on the celebrity roundabout, and I'm sure he enjoyed it. But now he just wants to get back and do what he does best, and that's boxing."

After meeting his family and officials, Egan later joined the rest of the 19-strong Irish panel for a week-long training and conditioning camp at the University of Ulster in Jordanstown near Belfast.

The Irish ABA are using the camp as preparations for the EU Championships in Odense, Denmark from June 14-21 and the Worlds in Milan from August 29-September 13.

## Singh's skills show

HOXTON'S Lion Club staged an open show at their Pitfield Street headquarters, London N1, when Danny Linger matched 17 bouts.

The hosts won four of five, with contests for three seniors off.

Lion junior debutant Krishan Singh showed skill, power and movement to outscore Ruslan Kamzaev (Haringey), a feat that earned him the Lion Boxer of the Night award.

Young Ryan Faye is now 3-0 after beating Northolt's more experienced S. Iqbal on a majority.

### RESULTS:

Junior, 3 x 1 1/2: J. Ward (Dagenham) outpd B. Beaney (The Reach) unan; K. Singh (Lion) outpd R. Kamzaev (Haringey) unan; R. Morgan (Lion) outpd J. O'Driscoll (Gator) maj; D.

Barrett (Northolt) outpd L. Isaacs (Lion) maj. Junior, 3 x 2: B. Robb (Gator) outpd J. Neal (Strood) unan; R. Faye (Lion) outpd S. Iqbal (Northolt) maj; S. Demirbala (Gator) outpd M. Keegan (Fitzroy Lodge) unan; K. Kazeen (County) outpd Z. Khan (Northolt) maj.

Senior, 3 x 2: M. O'Sullivan (Portsmouth University) outpd W. Silva (Haringey) unan; O. Rashid (Peacock) stpd P. Coburn (Baintree) 3rd; D. Richards (Northolt) bt J. Carr (Strood) disq 3rd; J. Hanson (Peacock) stpd A. Twin (Baintree) 2nd; S. Shields (Repton) outpd P. Holland (Gator) maj; J. Menzie (Lion) outpd J. Pjetri (West Ham) unan; G. Oram (Gator) outpd A. Khan (Northolt) unan; E. Bordin (Haringey) outpd D. Lowe (Peacock) maj; R. Richards (Northolt) outpd D. Kinfa (Peacock) unan.

CHRIS KEMPSON

## Lion to start nursery class

HOXTON'S Lion Club had decided to proceed with a dedicated nursery class for boys aged eight to 10.

They will run weekly and the first is on Sunday (March 22) from 10.30am at their Pitfield Street, London N1 base.

Coaches Steve Walters and Julian Borg will take it.

Chairman Alan Parry said, "This is something we've been thinking about for a while. With the continued and

regular influx of junior members we decided to launch this nursery class for this age group.

"It will give them the freedom of the gym on a Sunday morning and we fully expect to have additional members joining over the rest of the season. We are all excited by this latest venture at the Lion club."

CHRIS KEMPSON

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